

shaft streaks narrower, and the barring broken into dots much as in *O. brucei*.

The wings and tail measurements are compared below with those of *marathae*, which these seven specimens resemble most in colour.

	Wing	Tail
<i>Otus b. stewarti</i>	156-175 av. 163	70-82 av. 80
<i>Otus b. marathae</i>	143, 145, 147, 148	66(2), 67, 71

The larger wing '152-162, once 165 (41 measured)' indicated for *marathae* in IND. HANDBOOK, ex Ticehurst, is no doubt due to these two subspecies being measured together.

There can be no doubt that another of Koelz's buried races needs resuscitation and we do so in this instance.

75, ABDUL REHMAN STREET,  
BOMBAY-3.

HUMAYUN ABDULALI

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,  
BOMBAY-1,

S. A. HUSSAIN

June 25, 1971.

## 9. CALLS OF THE MALABAR JUNGLE OWLET (*GLAUCIDIUM RADIATUM MALABARICUM*)

The Jungle Owlet is the commonest owlet of North Malabar. When it has young to feed, it can be seen as often during the day as any diurnal bird. Young birds are either diurnal or must be getting fed all the 24 hours of the day. The very peculiar food-call of the juvenile does not appear to have been recorded.

For about three months from the time they have developed into downy young, juvenile Jungle Owlets incessantly utter a note that could easily be mistaken for the voice of the Tickell's Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum erythrorhynchos*). In fact, during April and May, 1969, though I heard it frequently at Dharmadam, Tellicherry Taluk, Kerala State, I did not pay much attention thinking that the author was a flowerpecker. On one or two occasions I saw a flowerpecker mobbing a jungle owlet and this made me ignore the fact that very often the sound seemed to issue from the place where an owlet was perched. On 10-vi-1969, however, I observed an owlet closely and found that the sounds were actually produced by it. It was a young bird and was being fed by an adult. When alone the juvenile went on uttering a series of *chick-chick-chick* (or *tchlik-tchlik*) notes at the rate of one 'chick' per second. When approached by the adult the rate increased until it became a

rapid, harsh chatter during the actual feeding. In 1969 almost every day from 10th June to 3rd July I saw and heard the juvenile owlet.

On 6-iv-1970 at 2.20 p.m. I saw a Jungle Owlet flying with a large brown insect to its nest in one of the hollows in a dead coconut tree. The nest was some 30 feet above the ground. A young bird was peeping out and uttering the food-call continuously. The adult just passed on the food to the young bird and flew off. Only one young bird's head was seen at the nest entrance. Till the 16th of April the young were fed in the nest by the adults. They left the nest on the 17th and (unless they were replaced by other juveniles) were regularly seen and heard uttering the food-call till the 30th of June, 1970. After that date I do not seem to have heard the food-call. I think at least two young were raised by the pair that bred in the coconut tree. Their nest was found occupied by Roseringed Parakeets on 2-v-1970. In a hole lower down a pair of Goldenbacked Woodpeckers was raising a family at the time the owlets were nesting there.

In the HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA & PAKISTAN, 3 (1969) the adult Jungle Owlet is said to utter two sorts of call: one that 'begins with a loud and slow "kāo" repeated 2 or 3 times, followed by "kāo-kūk (or kookūk), kāo-kūk, kāo-kūk, kāo-kūk etc. of about five seconds duration, quickening in tempo and fading off at the end"; the other, 'an occasional pleasant bubbling continuous *woi oioioioioi.....keek*, the final *keek* in a much higher key'. THE BIRDS OF KERALA (Sálim Ali 1969) gives an almost identical description, but the first type of call is described as 'ending abruptly'. This is perfectly correct, whereas the HANDBOOK's 'fading off at the end' is definitely misleading.

Though the Jungle Owlet was very common at Dharmadam, I do not remember to have heard the bubbling *woi oioioioioi.....keek* call at any time. However, I heard certain other notes not mentioned in the literature.

On 21-ix-69 at 5.45 a.m. more than 2 Jungle Owlets were calling. To quote from my diary, 'Two uttered the normal call of *kwār-kwār-kwār-kāokūk-kāokūk-kāokūk...*, but one that was very close to our house began with three *kwār*'s and then broke into a rapid *quack-kekekekekek*. This call it uttered at least 4 times, each time seemingly in reply to the normal calls of another bird in the adjacent compound. Every time this "unorthodox" call was repeated, it was the same in quantity, quality and rhythm.'

On 24-ix-69 at 6.45 p.m. two Jungle Owlets began a duet. They uttered 4 different sorts of notes. One was a low *toor-toor-toor-toor-toor*, often followed by the regular *kaokuk-kaokuk-kaokuk* refrain or a variant of it that sounded like *kwār-kwār-kwār-kwārkwarkwarkwark!*; the second a *quōr-quōr-quōr*; the third a *croo-croo-croo-croo-croo-croo*,

the final note sharply stressed; and last, a rapid *quack-wack-wack-wack-wack*. These owlets went on calling throughout the night and one of them was heard repeating a *kwoi-kwoi-kekekekeke-kweee* which may be a variant of the note described in the HANDBOOK as a bubbling *woi-oioioioioi . . . keek*.

On 25-ix-69 also the owlets were noisy all night; and, in addition to the calls described above, were often heard uttering a *kyow-kyow-kyow-queck-queck-queck-queck*... which, like the normal call, was always abruptly terminated. 25-ix-69 was fullmoon night but the sky was rather cloudy.

As all these unusual sounds were produced late in September, they were probably part of courtship-rivalry displays.

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#### 10. TIBETAN TWITE (*ACANTHIS FLAVIROSTRIS*) IN NEPAL

The present observation, mentioned incidentally in the *Ibis* 1965:400, appears to be the only record of the Twite in Nepal. Between the 15th and the 18th of June 1964, Twites were heard daily on both sides of the Gosainkund Pass at c. 4200 to 4500 m. in pure alpine zone, i.e. boulderstrewn meadows well above the scrub zone. The birds were in pairs, feeding on the ground or flying overhead, uttering a characteristic *dje-dje-djet*. In habits and voice, this species is much more like a redpoll than a linnet; its call-note differs only from that of the redpoll in being a triple note while that of *A. flammea* is usually a double-note. The nearest observations are from Sikkim (in winter), M. Everest region (summer—Kinnear, N.B., 1922, *Ibis*:520) and upper Karnal and Suttlej Rivers north of the Kumaon border, c. 81° long. east (Sálim Ali, *JBNHS* 46: 300 and Lavkumar, K.S., *JBNHS* 52: 928). The population inhabiting southern Tibet is named *A. f. rufos trigata*.

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